



County of Los Angeles  
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January 5, 2005

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen   
Chief Administrative Officer

**WASHINGTON UPDATE**

The 109<sup>th</sup> Congress was sworn in on January 4, 2005. California's 53-member House delegation is comprised of 32 Democrats and 20 Republicans, with one vacancy due to the death of Robert Matsui. Only two new members joined the delegation, former Representative Dan Lungren (R-Elk Grove) and Jim Costa (D-Fresno). There are no new members in the Los Angeles County delegation.

Three items of particular interest to the County have been announced.

**House Appropriations Committee:** Representative Jerry Lewis was named by the House Republican leadership to chair the full House Appropriations Committee. He was selected over two other Appropriations Committee veterans, Representatives Ralph Regula (R-OH), and Harold Rogers (R-KY). Lewis replaces Representative Bill Young (R-FL).

**House Rules Committee:** House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-IL) announced earlier this week that Representative David Dreier (R-Glendora) would continue to serve as Chairman of the Rules Committee for a fourth consecutive term. In doing so, the Speaker waived the six-year term limit that House Republicans have imposed on Committee Chairmen. The Speaker has sole discretion over the GOP membership of the Rules Committee, which sets the rules for House floor debate on each piece of legislation.

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**Committee on Homeland Security:** On January 4, 2005, the House adopted an organizing resolution (H. Res. 5) creating a permanent Committee on Homeland Security. Chaired by Representative Christopher Cox, the Committee, during the last Congress, was designated as a "select" committee, which had little power to legislate. During the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Committee's jurisdiction has been strengthened and will include legislative authority over a number of activities and programs administered by the Department of Homeland Security, including port security, border security (except immigration policy and non-border enforcement), domestic preparedness and collective response to terrorism, and transportation security. The Committee also will have broad oversight authority over government-wide homeland security matters.

**Congressional Briefing on Joint Aviation Operations Center in Los Alamitos:** The Office of Representative Linda Sanchez is coordinating a briefing for Congressional staff on the feasibility of establishing a Joint Aviation Operations Center, Field Office, and Logistics Staging Area at the existing Los Alamitos Army Airfield at the request of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. The briefing, which will include representatives from law enforcement agencies interested in the project, will be held at the airfield at 1:00 p.m. on January 11, 2005.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK  
MAL:MT:ib

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
All Department Heads  
Legislative Strategist